

State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development are working heroically to meet this need.

But the truth is, no diplomatic service in the world has within its ranks all the experts or expertise needed for this kind of work. As a result, from Somalia and Haiti to Bosnia and Kosovo, and now to Afghanistan and Iraq, our government has increasingly depended on our men and women in uniform to perform civilian responsibilities.

The military has filled this void admirably, but it is a task that others can and should take up. The primary responsibility for post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction should not fall to our fighting men and women but to volunteer, civilian experts.

That is why President Bush called for the establishment of a volunteer Civilian Reserve Corps in his 2007 State of the Union address. "Such a corps would function much like our military reserve," he said. "It would ease the burden of the armed forces by allowing us to hire civilians with critical skills to serve on missions abroad when America needs them." Both the State Department and the Pentagon support this initiative.

The Senate has likewise recognized the need for a stand-alone rebuilding capacity, and last year unanimously passed legislation to create a Reconstruction and Stabilization corps within the State Department. Legislation before the Senate would take further steps to establish the operational elements necessary for this work. The bill has three parts:

First, it calls for a 250-person active-duty corps of Foreign Service professionals from State and USAID, trained with the military and ready to deploy to conflict zones.

Second, it would establish a roster of 2,000 other federal volunteers with language and technical skills to stand by as a ready reserve.

Third, it would create the Civilian Reserve Corps the president called for, a group of 500 Americans from around the country with expertise in such areas as engineering, medicine and policing, to be tapped for specific deployments. The corps could be deployed globally wherever America's interests lie, to help nations emerging from civil war, for instance, or to mitigate circumstances in failed states that endanger our security.

If Congress acts soon, the administration may be able to deploy the reconstruction corps in Iraq and Afghanistan. But future conflicts are equally important. If we are to win the war on terrorism, we cannot allow states to crumble or remain incapable of governing.

We have seen how terrorists can exploit countries afflicted by lawlessness and desperate circumstances. The United States must have the right non-military structures, personnel and resources in place when an emergency occurs. A delay in our response can mean the difference between success and failure.

Congress has already appropriated \$50 million for initial funding, and an authorization to expend these funds is required. The bill is widely supported on both sides of the aisle and could be adopted quickly.

Yet this legislation is being blocked on the faulty premise that the task can be accomplished with existing personnel and organization. In our view, that does not square with either recent experience or the judgment of our generals and commander in chief.

It would be penny-wise but pound-foolish to continue to overburden our military with reconstruction duties. We urge Congress to stand up for our troops by giving them the civilian help they need.

HONORING SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments this morning to pay tribute to our colleague from Mississippi, Senator TRENT LOTT.

Senator LOTT has been at the center of every major policy debate in the Congress for more than three decades.

Senator LOTT was a fierce and effective advocate for limited government. No one who has been involved in debating budget, tax, or health policy with Senator LOTT—as I frequently did on the Finance Committee—can question his commitment to conservative principles of government.

But what made Senator LOTT effective was that he understood that others had different views, and he understood the importance and art of compromise. He was driven to produce results, and he was unrelenting in his efforts to build coalitions to pass legislation and make things better for the American people. He recognized that, in the Senate, compromise is necessary to get things done. As majority leader, he was able to find policies that could hold his caucus together and at the same time win support from the Clinton White House and moderate Democrats.

In more recent years, he has played a key behind-the-scenes role in bridging differences between the parties. No one was better at counting votes and knowing the limits of his negotiating flexibility. When TRENT LOTT told you he could produce the votes for a proffered compromise, he delivered. You could count on it.

Perhaps most importantly, Senator LOTT had an uncanny ability to persuade and cajole people to get a deal. He has a great sense of humor and a seemingly unparalleled ability to develop friendships and relationships with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and both ends of the Capitol. He always knows who the key players are, and what will bring them to the table. These skills have produced a great record of accomplishments for Mississippi and the Nation.

Personally, I will miss his quick wit, his insights, and his friendship. As Senator LOTT prepares to leave the Senate, I wish him and his wife Tricia all the best.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, Senator LOTT is true gentleman: agreeable, good-humored and kind in nature. When I think of TRENT LOTT, the words consensus and congeniality come to mind. These words come to mind because TRENT has become one of the greatest mediators this body has ever seen, his ability to bring all parties on an issue to the table and when the negotiations are done, each person leaves with a smile on their face. Senator LOTT's humor and affable personality made working with him a pleasure, even when a compromise could not be found and the time for negotiating was over, nobody would leave the table feeling alienated, or hurt they left with TRENT still a friend and eager to work on the next solution.

TRENT LOTT'S 34 years of service to his country as a Member of Congress will forever be remembered in chapters of our Nation's history and by his constituents of Mississippi. But the one who deserves just as much thanks and gratitude is his college sweetheart and wife Tricia. While TRENT has been dedicated to his job and country for the past 34 years, he has been devoted to his family.

Senator LOTT's congeniality could be attributed to his humble beginnings, southern upbringing, or a number of things, but no matter the reason he still remains a humble man with many friends and a man who is truly kind to others. As I have grown to know him through our work here in the Senate, I have seen that his kindness stretches beyond the walls of his duties on this floor and to all who encounter him. TRENT always has a smile on his face and extends pleasantries to everyone he passes. Here in Washington, it is easy for one to be consumed by self-importance and it is easy to forget to treat others as we wish to be treated, but he never did. While in the lobby of another office, Senator LOTT will have a candid conversation with the much overlooked staff manning the front desk or anyone in his path—he will go out of his way to make sure everyone is greeted with warm hello.

I have agreed with Senator LOTT on many issues, and I have disagreed with him on many as well, but in each scenario we always ended with a handshake and a good laugh. This institution is losing a man who could bring people together and allow bitter enemies to lay down their swords.

This is a man who will be missed by many and I wish Senator LOTT the best of luck as he retires from his years of political service.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished colleague from the great State of Mississippi, Senator TRENT LOTT.

As a reformer, a defender and a leader, TRENT LOTT leaves behind a legacy in the U.S. Senate, the fruits of which we will reap for years to come. In 1996, TRENT joined with colleagues to enact an historic welfare reform bill. He pushed for reform again when he supported President Bush's tax cut package early on in the administration. TRENT has never been afraid to step forward in faith toward what he knows is right.

A champion for a strong national defense, TRENT supported the President's military action in Iraq as well as increased defense spending. As a defender himself, TRENT understands the importance of a strong military and the value of rewarding those who valiantly serve this country. In 1998, he urged Congress to raise the pay for our military men and women, an act that hadn't occurred in a decade.

As the first man to serve as the whip in both the House and the Senate, TRENT could not have accomplished

any of the aforementioned achievements and many others without his innate ability to lead. Leadership is not easy. The weight of good leadership is often a difficult load to bear, but TRENT LOTT upheld his roles as senator, majority leader and whip with an admirable level of dignity and integrity throughout his tenure.

As a new Senator, I have been touched by TRENT's candor, patience, unique charm, and by observing the tremendous relationship he has with his wife Tricia. Professionally, I have benefited greatly from his knowledge and experience about how to effectively make a difference in the U.S. Senate. He is a gifted negotiator, and his strong leadership will be greatly missed. For more than three decades, Senator LOTT has been a great public servant to the people of Mississippi in Congress. I extend my best wishes to TRENT and Tricia as they begin the next phase of their lives together.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to wish farewell to an honored colleague and a good friend: Senator TRENT LOTT. TRENT served in Congress for 34 years, and has represented the State of Mississippi in the Senate for 18; during that time, he distinguished himself as both a dedicated and effective party leader, and a symbol of bipartisan compromise. Few Senators play both roles so well.

Those who know TRENT often describe his personal charisma and his natural leadership abilities. Those abilities have been on display for decades, manifesting themselves as early as his college days at Ole Miss, where TRENT was a fraternity president, a cheerleader, and a well-known presence on campus. TRENT brought his budding political skills to Washington, where he served as a staffer on Capitol Hill before he was elected to Congress himself, in the first of a long series of wide-margin victories.

From 1973 to 1988, TRENT represented Mississippi's conservative 5th District, serving on the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate scandal, as well as in the Republican leadership. As Republican whip, he helped build broad coalitions to pass important domestic and national security legislation.

In 1988, TRENT was elected to the Senate by eight percentage points over his opponent and never again faced a close race, winning reelection overwhelmingly in 1994, 2000, and 2006. His skill at negotiation made him a Senate natural, and his party entrusted him with its highest leadership responsibilities: majority whip in 1995; majority leader in 1996; and, in a widely remarked-upon comeback, whip again just last year.

Newt Gingrich called TRENT "the smartest legislative politician I've ever met." And though I often disagreed on the issues with TRENT, not to mention Newt, I just as often admired his acumen. I couldn't begin to list the important legislation shepherded through

this body by the Senator from Mississippi: education reform, defense spending, trade legislation, the ratification of NATO expansion, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and much more. But even as he worked on matters of national and international import, he always had time for the people of Mississippi: he helped expand his state's highway system, brought research funding to its universities, and dedicated himself to Mississippi's economic recovery in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Indeed, the challenged posed by that destructive storm convinced TRENT to put off retirement until this year; and I am sure that the people of his state are grateful for the time he could lend to their recovery efforts.

In his memoirs, TRENT compared leading the Senate to "herding cats." But today, at least, the members of this most difficult body have found some unanimity: We are united in our affection for TRENT LOTT and in our sadness at his departure. We will miss his legislative talent, his rich baritone, his taste in seersucker suits, and his fine head of hair. But we trust that he and his dear wife Tricia have many happy years ahead, and we wish them all the best. •

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 2664

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 2764, which includes the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2008, inadvertently omitted the following items for which I had made a request to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee and for which I had submitted the appropriate letter of pecuniary interest. Those items are: under the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Special Research Grants account, the Pacific Northwest Small Fruit Research Center for Idaho, Oregon and Washington, operated in cooperation with Washington State University, which was awarded \$329,000; under the Agriculture Research Service Salaries & Expenses account, the Potato Research Enhancement Project in Prosser, WA, co-located with the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center of Washington State University, which was awarded \$288,000 and under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service account, the Washington Clean Plant Network which was awarded \$225,000. All three of these projects are essential to the ongoing development of my home state's vital agriculture industry. I thank Chairman KOHL and Ranking Member BENNETT for their work to correct the record with respect to these three projects.

Mr. KOHL. I thank the Senator from Washington. I have reviewed her requests to our subcommittee and she is correct. The record should reflect her requests.

Mr. BENNETT. I concur with Senator KOHL, the subcommittee chairman, in this action.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, we face a major setback to the effort to advance American exports and freer international trade. Some on the other side of the aisle are threatening to kill trade adjustment assistance, or TAA.

Trade adjustment assistance provides training, health, and income benefits to trade-displaced workers. It has been integral to America's trade policy since 1962. That is when President Kennedy first created the program.

TAA has helped America's workers to improve their competitiveness. It has helped workers to retrain and retool. And it has provided Americans the security of knowing that the government will help them if trade causes a displacement.

Trade adjustment assistance has been vital to my home State of Montana. Since the last TAA reauthorization in 2002, more than 1,500 Montanans have participated in the TAA program. It has helped workers especially in the lumber industry to retrain and re-enter the workforce.

In May, one particular Montanan, Jerry Ann Ross of Eureka, testified about trade adjustment assistance before the Senate Finance Committee. Jerry's story is like that of many Montanans who have been laid off from American lumber mills.

Jerry worked at a lumber mill for 13 years. But then in 2005, she lost her job. That is when she became eligible for trade adjustment assistance. With TAA's help, Jerry entered a training program at Flathead Valley Community College. She expects to graduate this month.

With TAA's help, Jerry has updated her skills. She has made herself more competitive in the workforce as a construction superintendent and an accountant. Jerry's is one of many TAA success stories around the country.

At the Finance Committee hearing, we also learned that the current trade adjustment assistance is not perfect. It needs to be updated. We need to improve it to reflect today's globalized economy.

That is why in July, along with Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, I introduced the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act. Our bill would correct the flaws of today's program.

Our bill would extend TAA benefits to service workers. Service workers account for four out of five jobs in our economy. Our bill would extend TAA benefits to workers whose companies outsource to China, India, and other countries with which America does not have a free-trade agreement. Our bill would increase training funds for States. It would make sure that States have enough money to retrain workers. And our bill would increase the portion of the health care tax credit that the